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ISEKI_Food Association | Muthgasse 18, 1190 Vienna, Austria

Phone: +43 699 19247527

Fax: +43 1 9909903

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1. Submitted Manuscripts

1.1. Total Number of Submitted Manuscripts

The total number of the International Journal of Food Studies (IJFS) submitted manuscripts, between 2011 and 2019, is presented in the graph below (Figure 1).

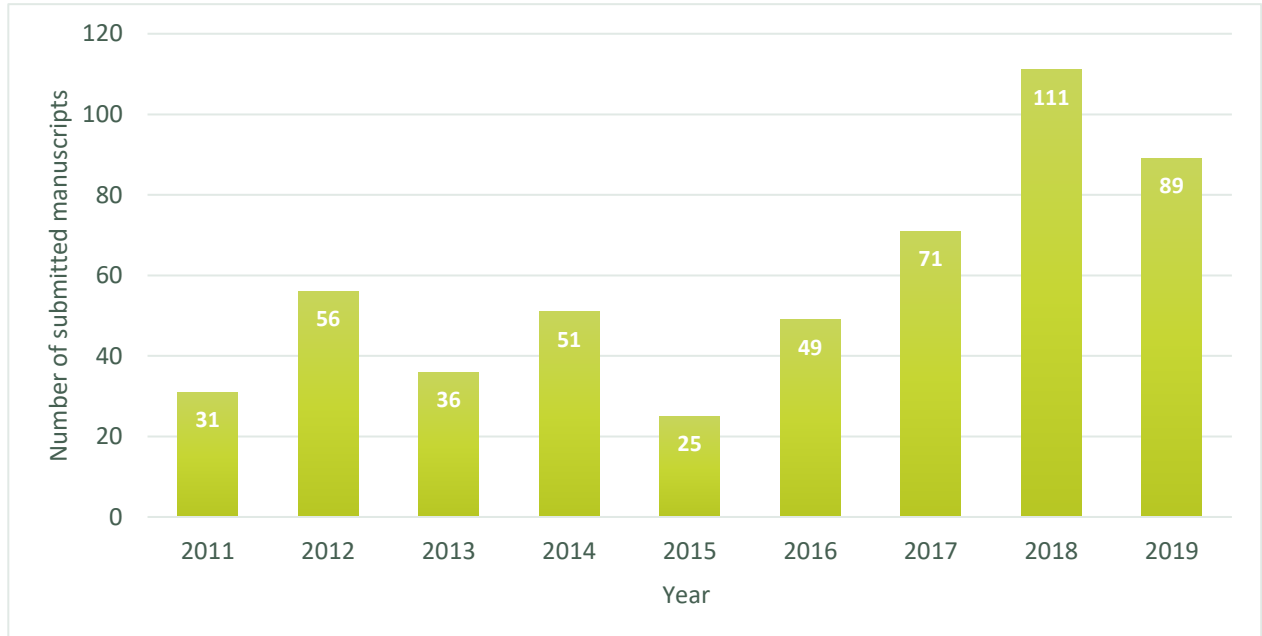


Figure 1. Trend of the total number of submitted manuscripts from 2011 till 2019.

In 2015 the IJFS registered the lowest number of submitted manuscripts, while in 2018, after indexing in Scopus, the highest number of submissions was registered (111 submissions). From 2018 to 2019, the number of submitted manuscripts decreased by 19,8%. This is explained by the introduction, in March 2019, of an Article Publishing Charge (APC).

1.2. Geographical Distribution of Submitted Manuscripts

A data analysis about the geographical distribution of submitted manuscripts during the period from 2011 till 2019 reported the following results (Figures 2 and 3).

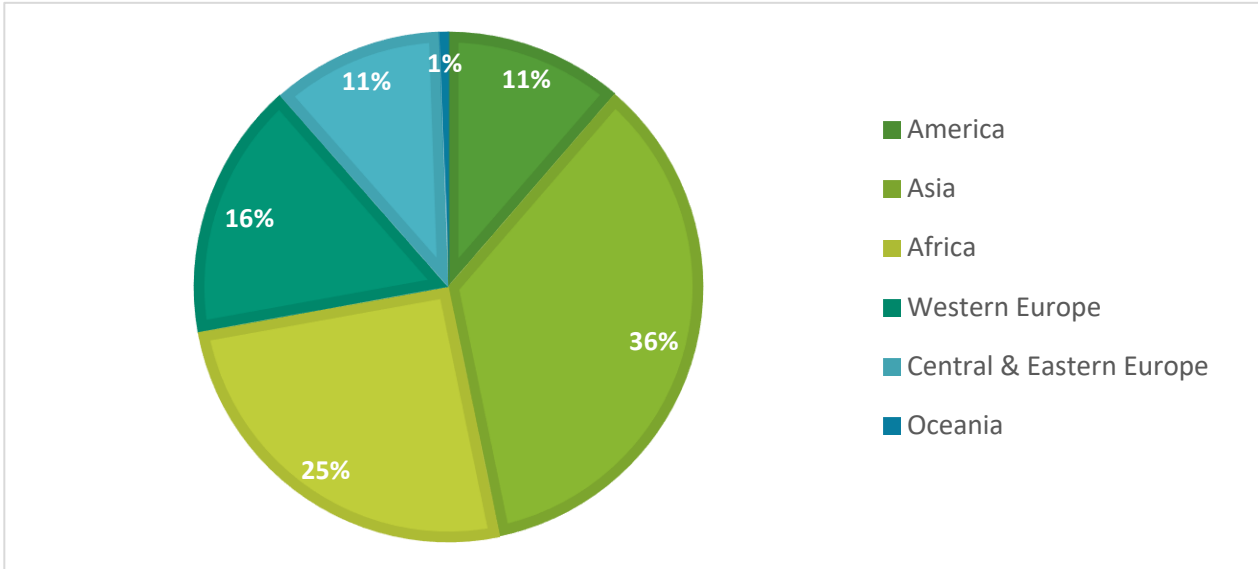


Figure 3. Percentage of the geographical distribution of submitted manuscripts from 2011 till 2019.

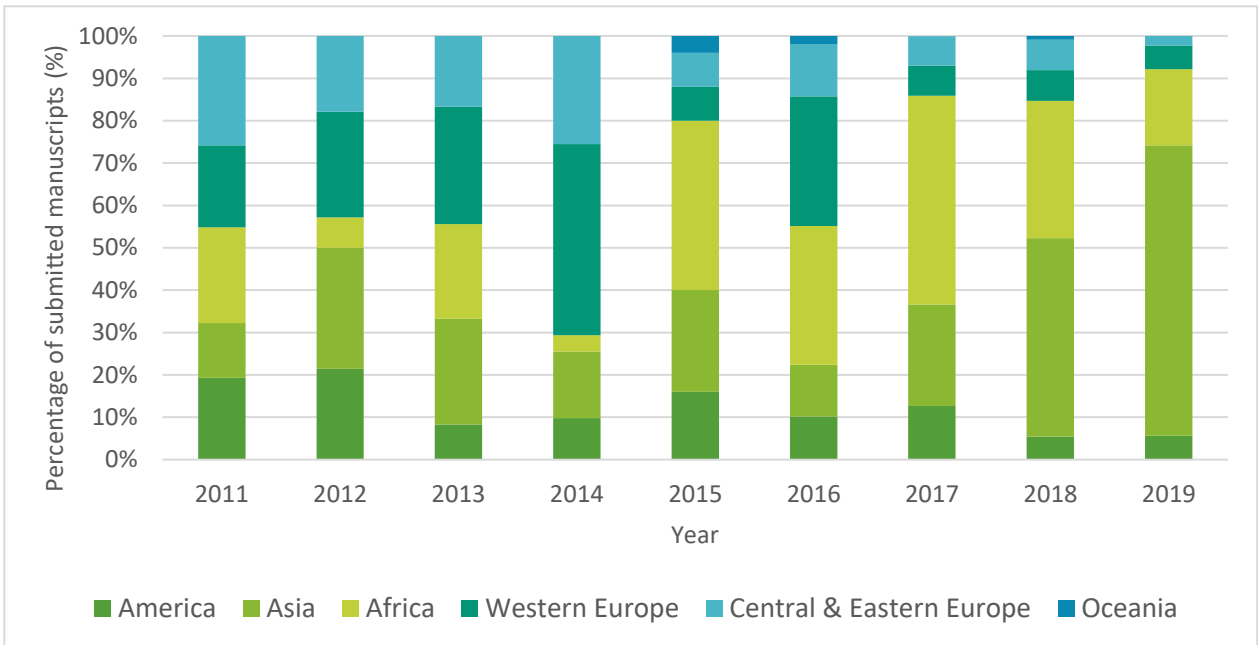


Figure 2. Geographical distribution of the total number of submitted manuscripts per continent.

In 2011, most of the manuscripts were submitted by Europe (26% by Central and Eastern Europe, 19% by Western Europe), while a percentage of 13% represented the manuscripts submitted by Asia. The trend in 2019 changed, and Asia registered the highest number of submitted manuscripts (69%), while Europe showed an 8% of the total submissions (a percentage of 6% by Western Europe and 2% by Central and Eastern Europe). The growth of the Asian submitted manuscripts was 56% from 2011 to 2019.

1.2.1. America

Figure 4 presents the submitted manuscripts from different American countries from 2011 to 2019.

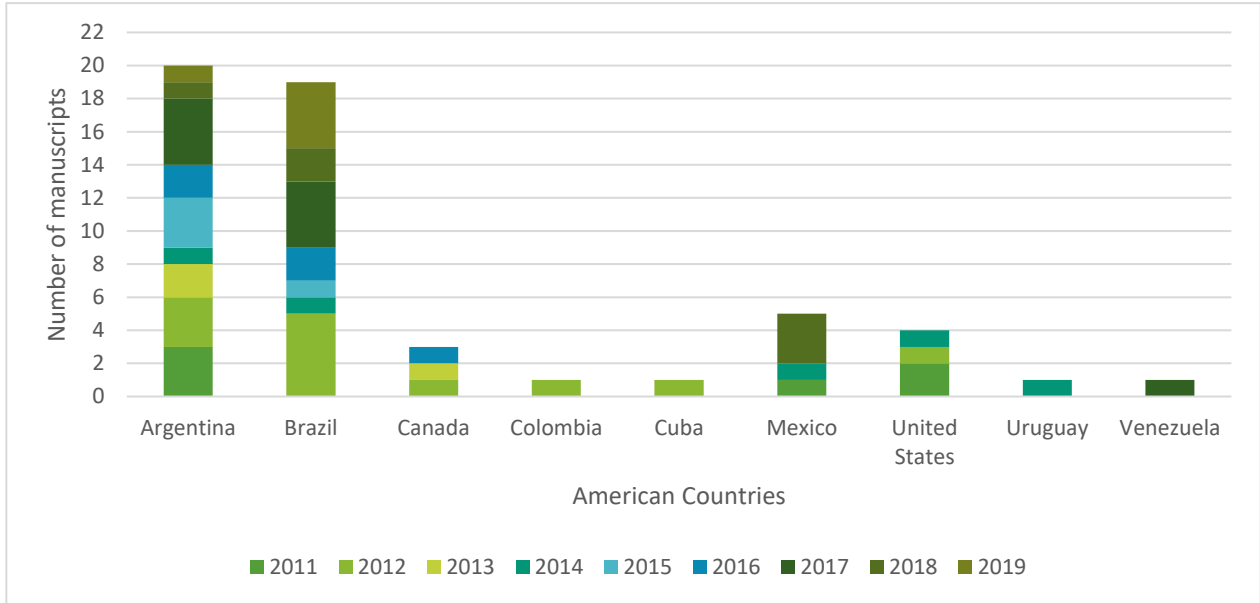


Figure 4. Geographical distribution of submitted manuscripts from America.

1.2.2. Asia

Figure 5 presents the submitted manuscripts from different Asian countries from 2011 to 2019.

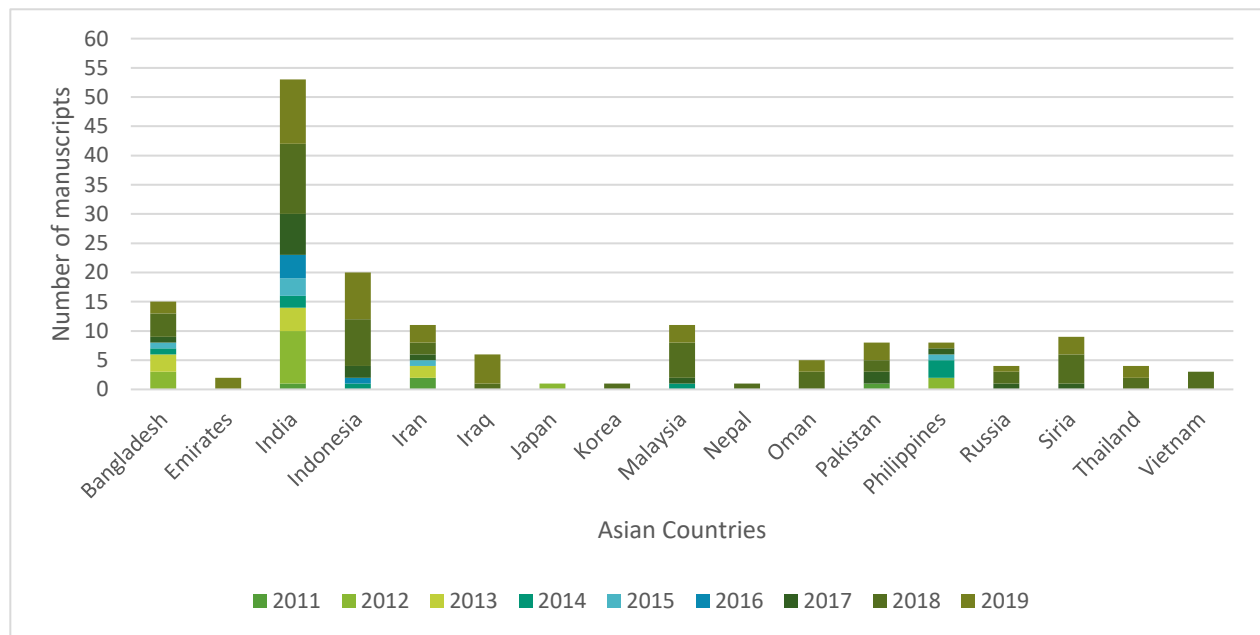


Figure 5. Geographical distribution of submitted manuscripts from Asia.

1.2.3. Africa

Figure 6 presents the submitted manuscripts from different African countries from 2011 to 2019.

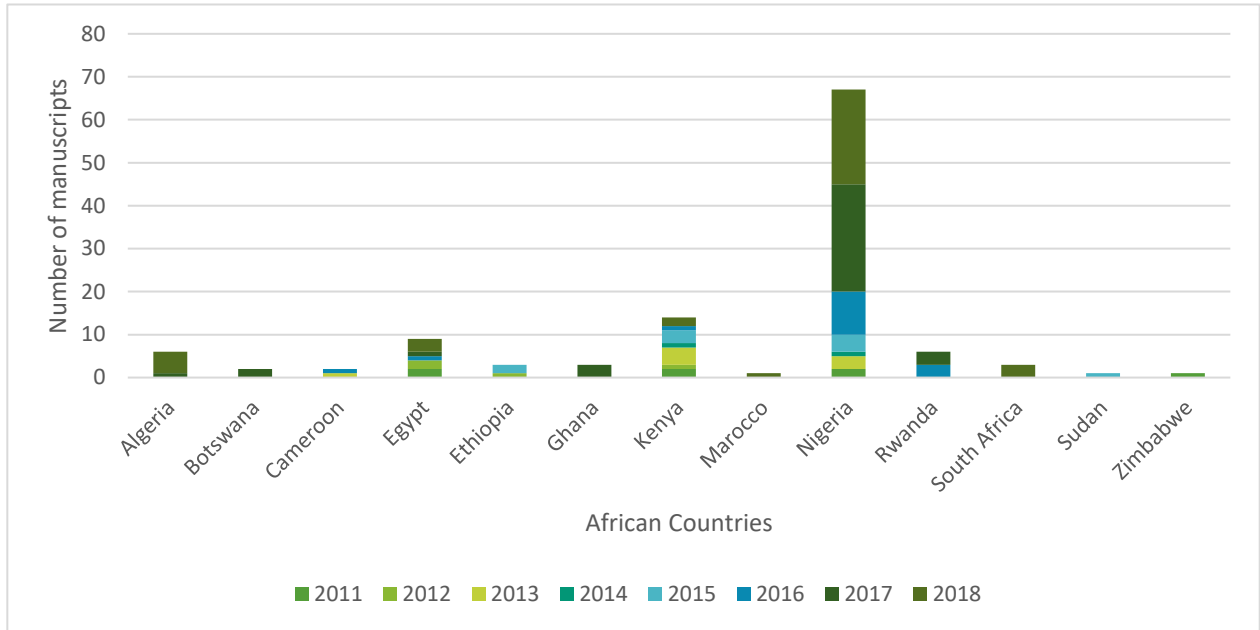


Figure 6. Geographical distribution of submitted manuscripts from Africa.

1.2.4. Europe

Figure 7 presents the submitted manuscripts from different European countries from 2011 to 2019.

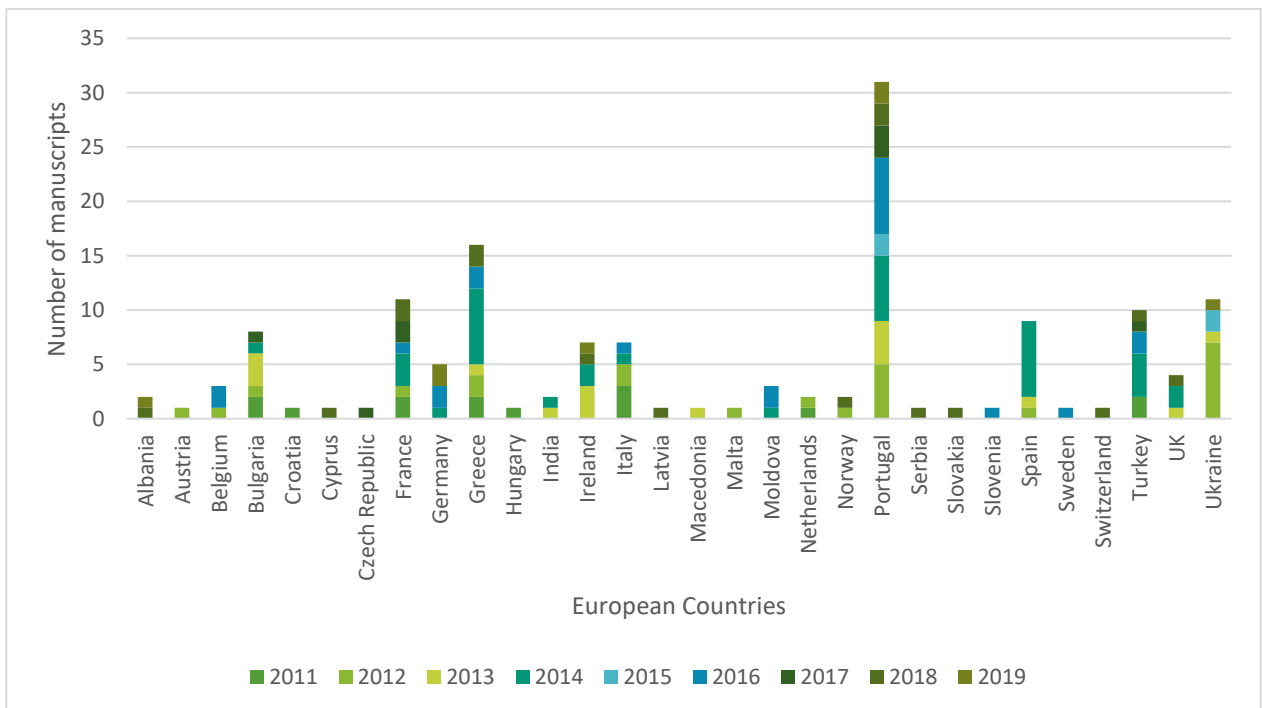


Figure 7. Geographical distribution of submitted manuscripts from Europe.

1.3. Type of Submitted Manuscripts

The International Journal of Food Studies publishes manuscripts about several topics about food. For this reason, it is possible to consider four main categories:

- **Education Methods:** methods, including Life Long Learning and e-learning;
- **Research and Application:** in academia, research and industry;
- **Critical Reviews of Scientific Literature:** by researchers, students, invited authors;
- **Exchange of Views and Opinions of a Scientific Nature:** including testimonies on career experiences in Food Industry/Research/Education (required skills, challenges, and successes).

Figure 8 shows that the majority of the manuscripts belong to the category “**Research and Application**”, that reached 92% in 2017 and 90% in 2019.

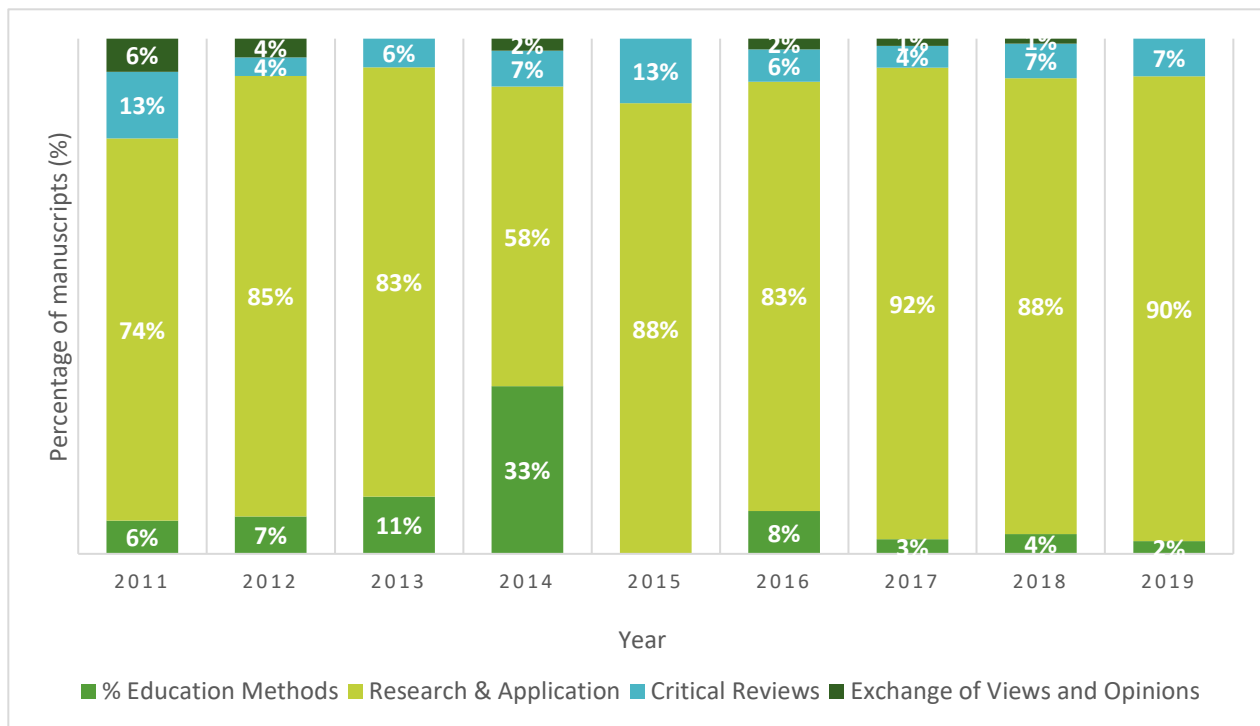


Figure 8. Percentage of the different categories of manuscripts between 2011 and 2019.

Figure 9 underlines the prevalence of submitted manuscripts for the category “**Research and Application**” between 2011 and 2019.

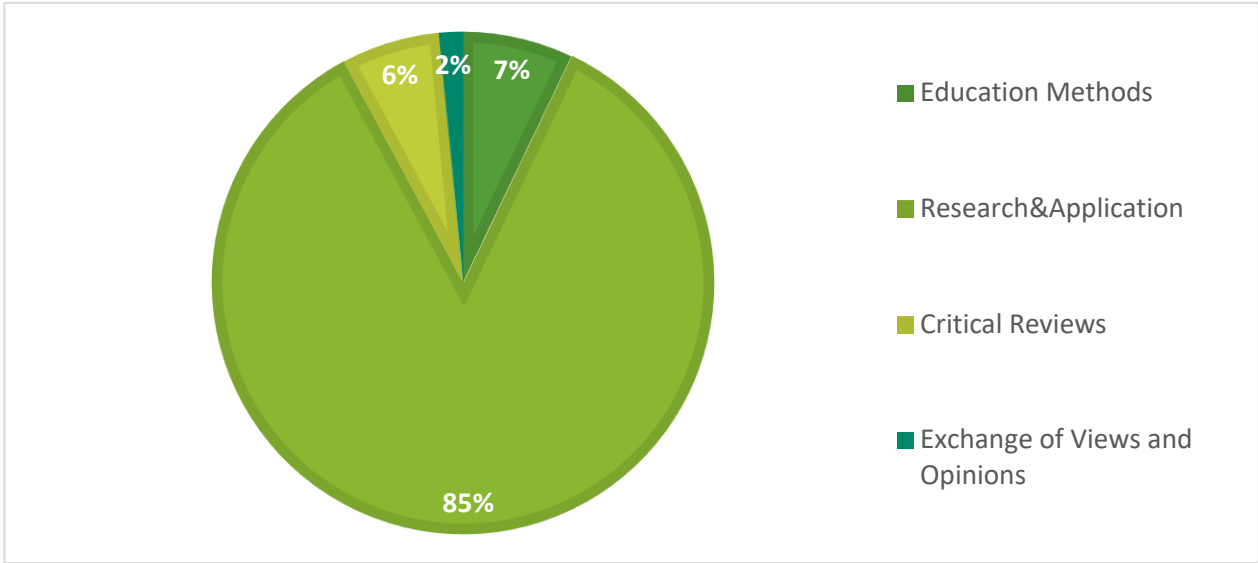


Figure 9. Percentage of submitted manuscripts per category.

2. Processed Manuscripts

2.1. Preliminary Evaluation of Submitted Manuscripts

The following graph shows all the submitted manuscripts and the number of the directly rejected and forwarded for review process, after the preliminary evaluation (Figure 10).

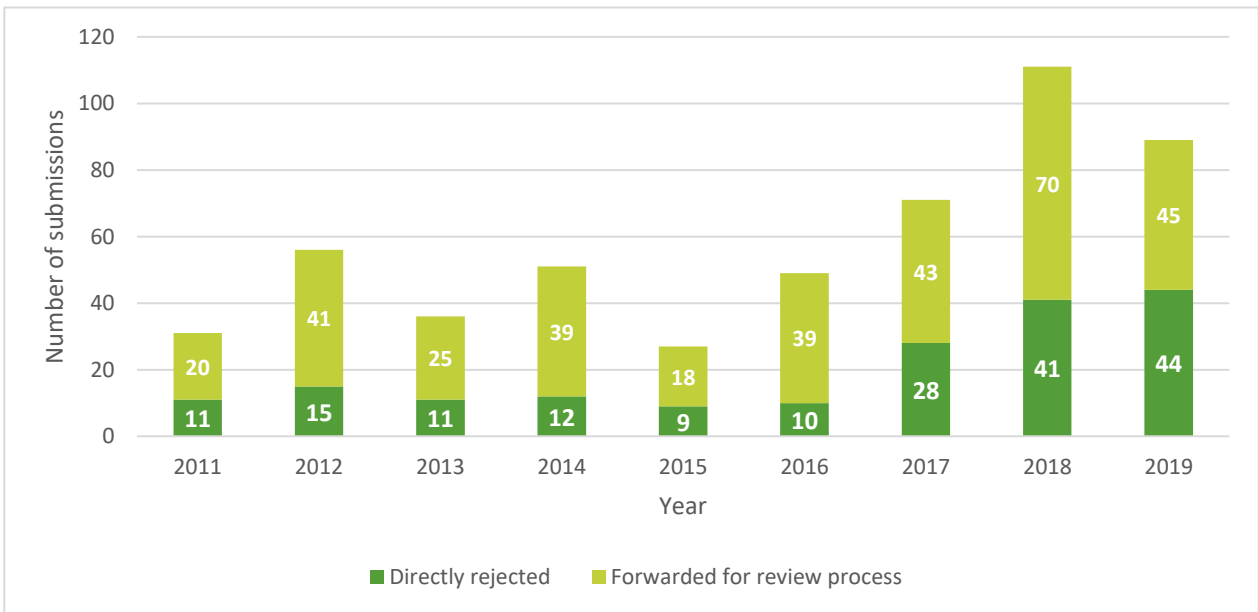


Figure 10. Number of directly rejected and forwarded for review process manuscripts.

The collected data registered a balance between the directly rejected manuscripts and those forwarded for the review process. In 2019, a balance between directly rejected manuscripts and forwarded for the review process is observed.

2.2. Number of Accepted and Declined Submissions

The following stage was to analyse the number of positive and negative decisions. The graph below presents the number of rejected submissions and accepted submissions (Figure 11).

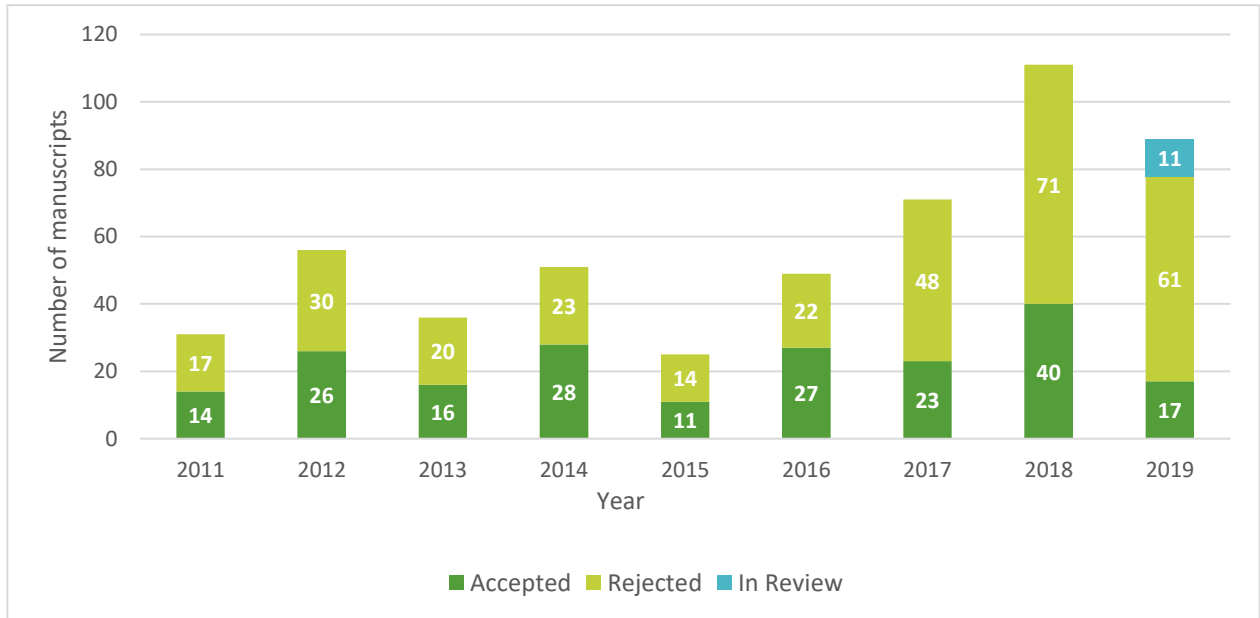


Figure 11. Number of accepted, rejected and in review submissions between 2011 and 2019.

An increasing number of rejected submissions and a decreasing number of accepted submissions was observed from 2011 to 2019. The IJFS registered 17 rejected submissions in 2011 and 61 in 2019, which means a growth in negative decisions.

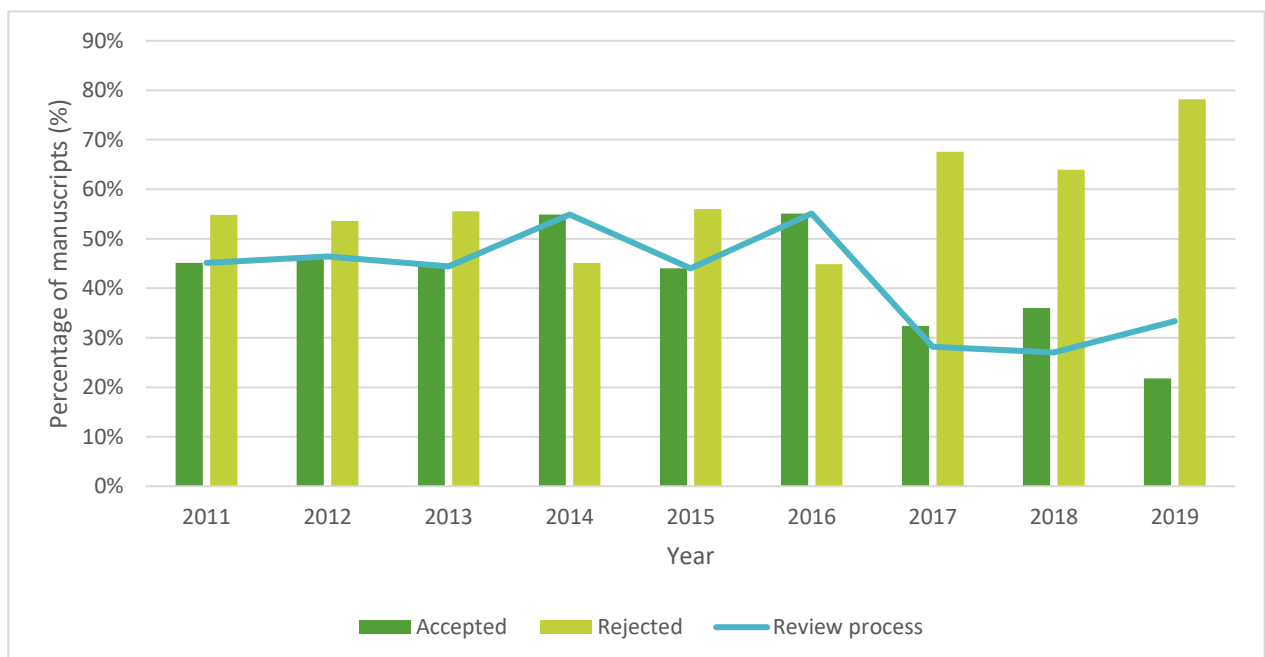


Figure 12. Trend of decision on submitted manuscripts percentage, calculated on the total of submissions between 2011 and 2019.

Figures 13 and 14 present the geographical distribution of the total number of decisions from 2011 till 2019.

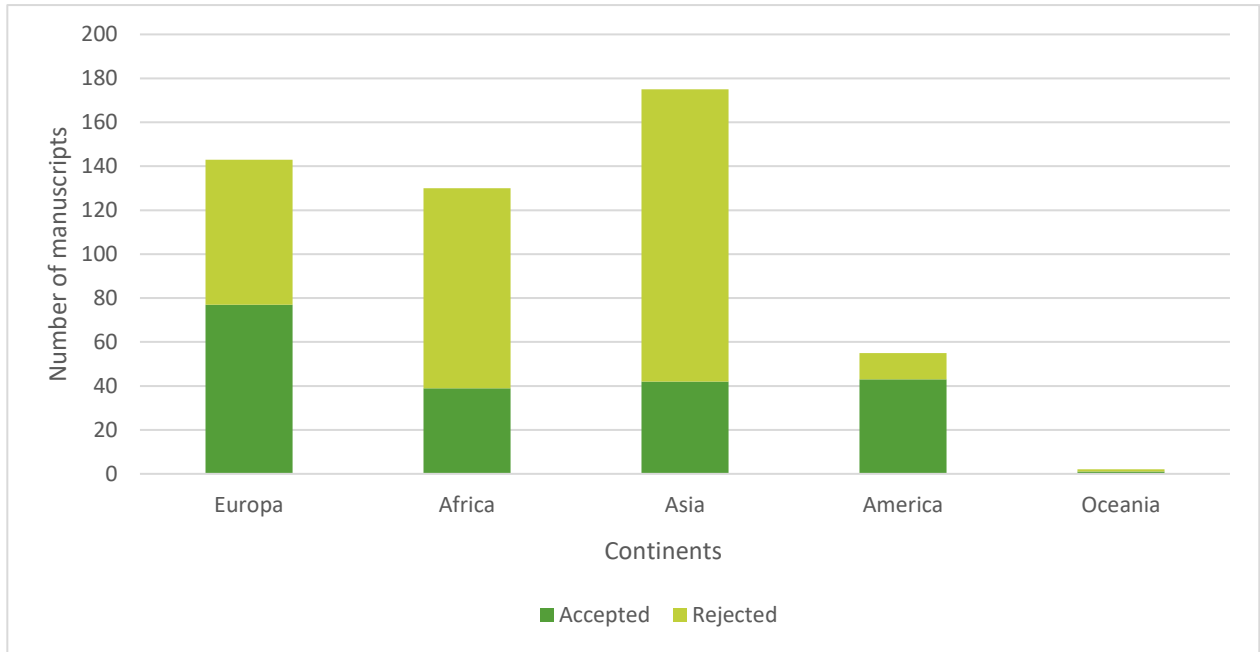


Figure 13. Total number of accepted and rejected manuscripts per continent.

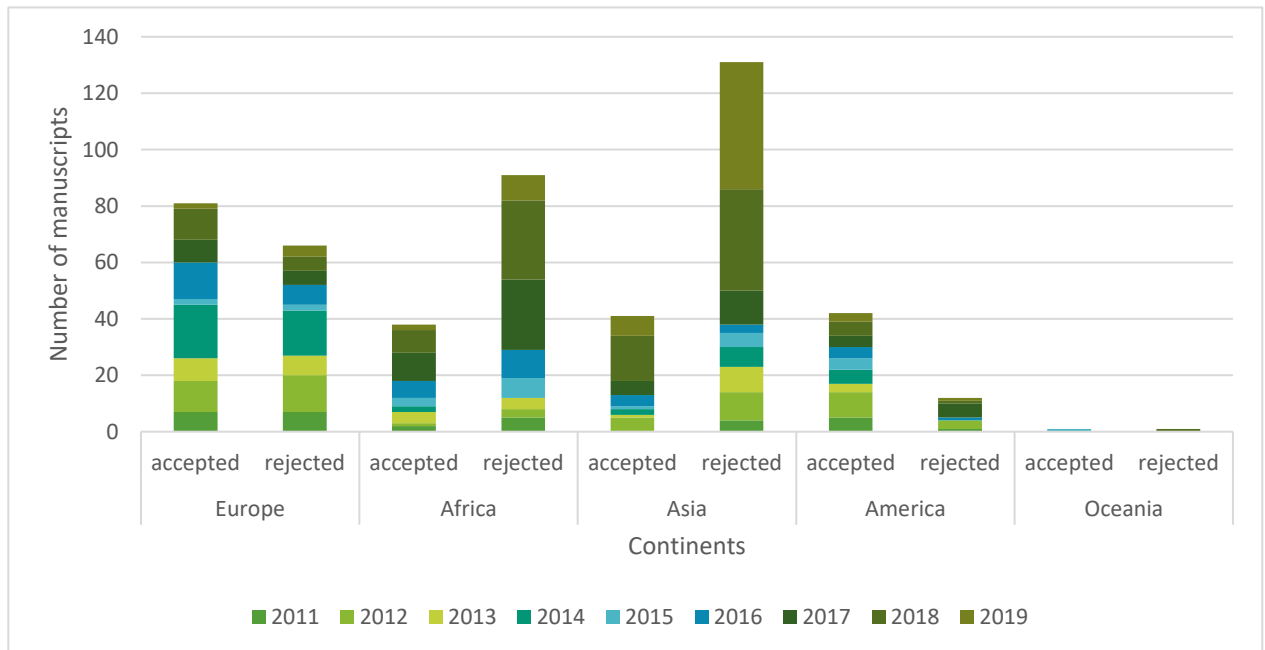


Figure 14. Number of accepted and rejected manuscripts per continent from 2011 till 2019.

2.2.1. Declined Submissions

As mentioned before, submitted manuscripts can be directly rejected or after a review process. Figure 15 presents their percentages.

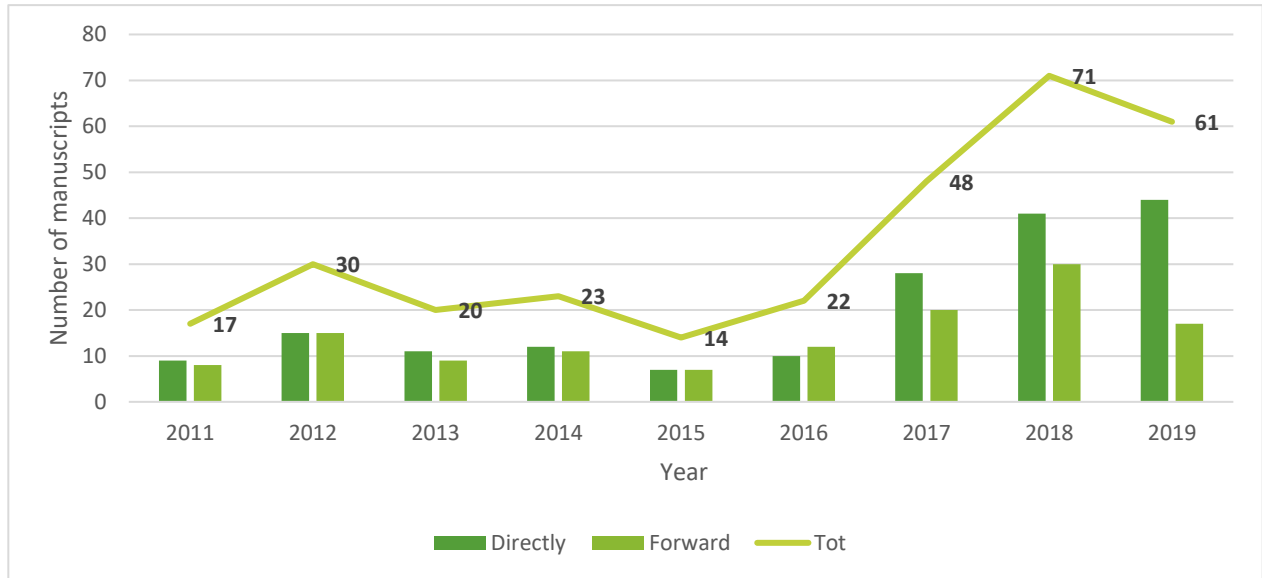


Figure 15. Number of directly rejected submissions and rejected submissions after the review process.

A similar trend and balance between the two analysed categories were observed until 2017. From 2018, the number of submissions increased, being possible to increase the degree of exigence.

2.2.2. Accepted Submissions

After the first analysis by the *Editor-in-Chief* team, the review process of the submitted manuscripts includes different steps of revisions. Some manuscripts need a major number of revisions, while others need minor before being accepted. Figure 16 shows the distinction major and minor revisions reported to the authors.

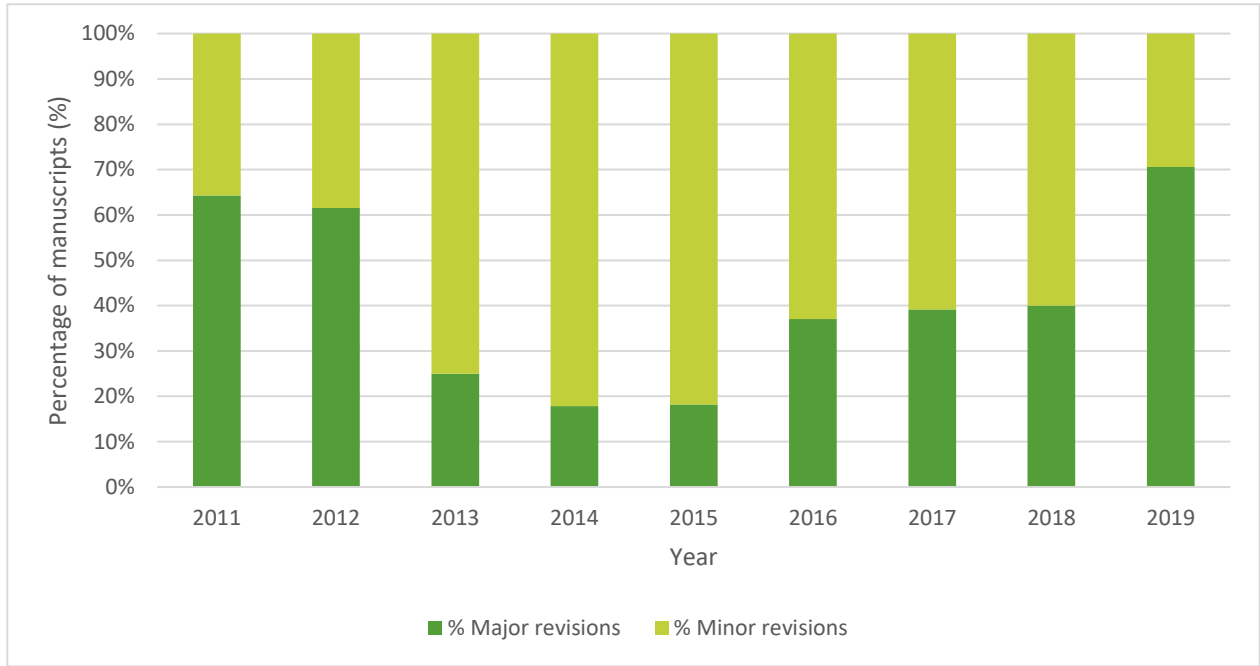
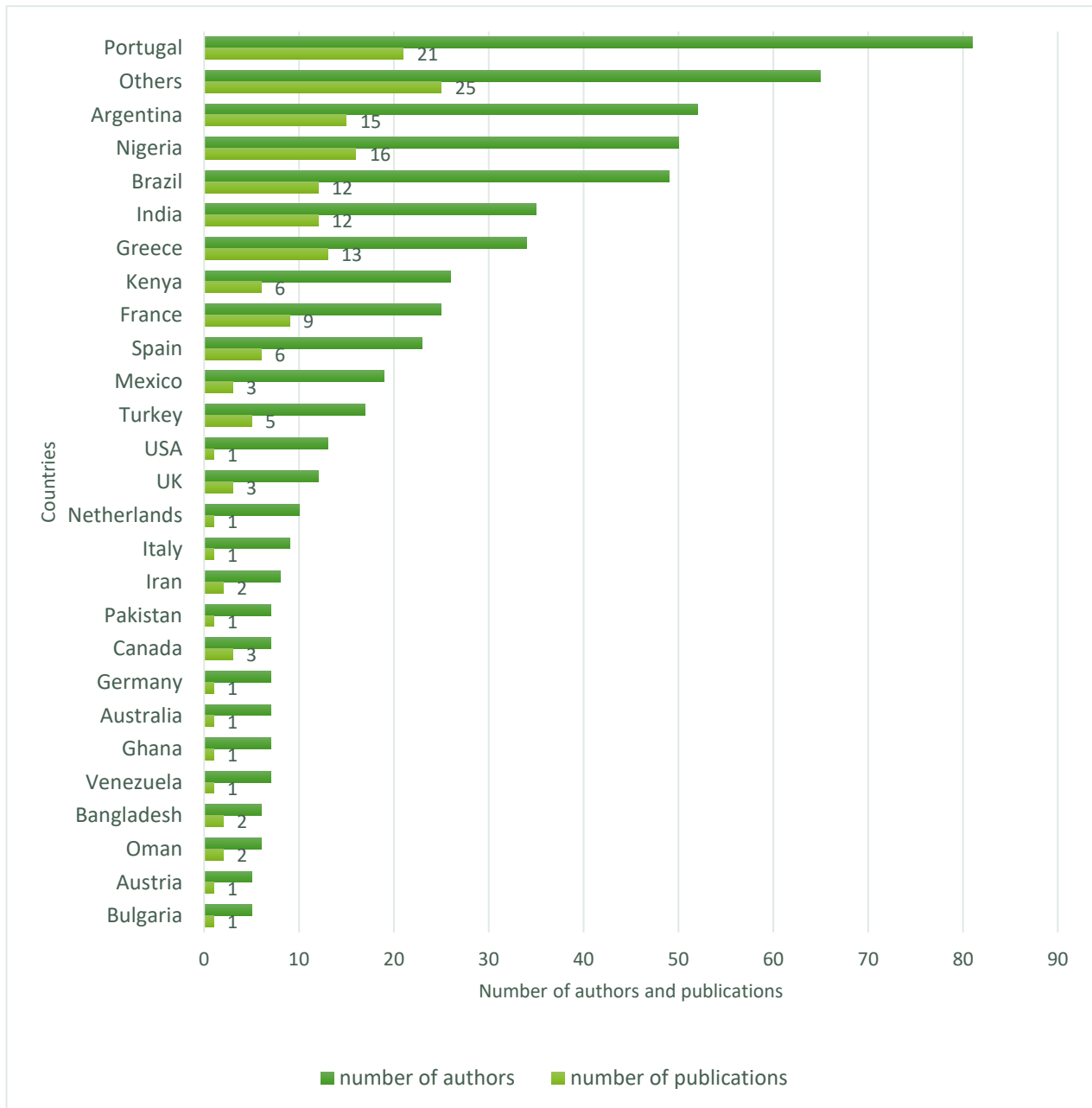


Figure 16. Percentage of submissions with a major number of revisions and submissions with a minor number of revisions.

From the percentages shown in the graph, it can be observed that in the first two years (2011 and 2012) and in the last 2019 the submissions were subject to many revisions.

3. Published Manuscripts

3.1. Number of Authors and Publications



*Other: all the minor countries in terms of number of publications and authors, different from the countries shown in the graph.

Figure 17. Number of authors and publications per country.

The collected data about the total number of authors and publications present a varied pattern (Figure 17). In the graph, “Others” represents the sum of all countries which have a small number of authors and publications, compared with those showed. Portugal, Nigeria, and Argentina reported higher number of authors and publications.

3.2. Geographical Distribution of the Authors

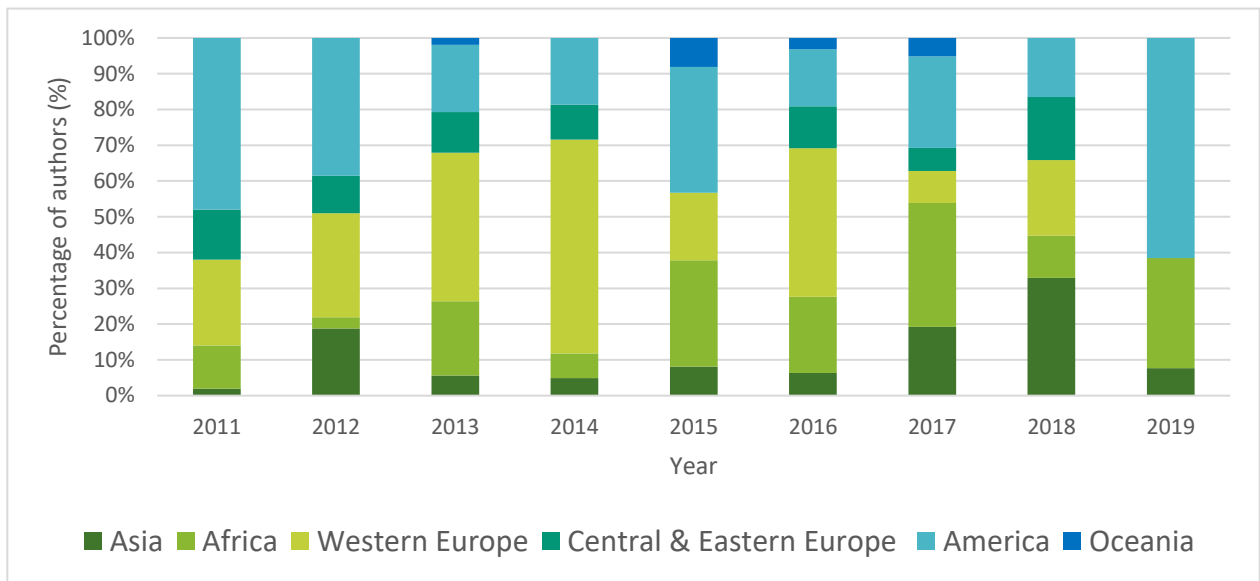


Figure 18. Geographical distribution of the authors between 2011 and 2019.

The geographical distribution of the authors is shown in Figure 18. From 2011 to 2019 there was a significant change in the pattern.

4. Associate Editors

Figure 19 presents the distribution of workload among 13 different Associate Editors.

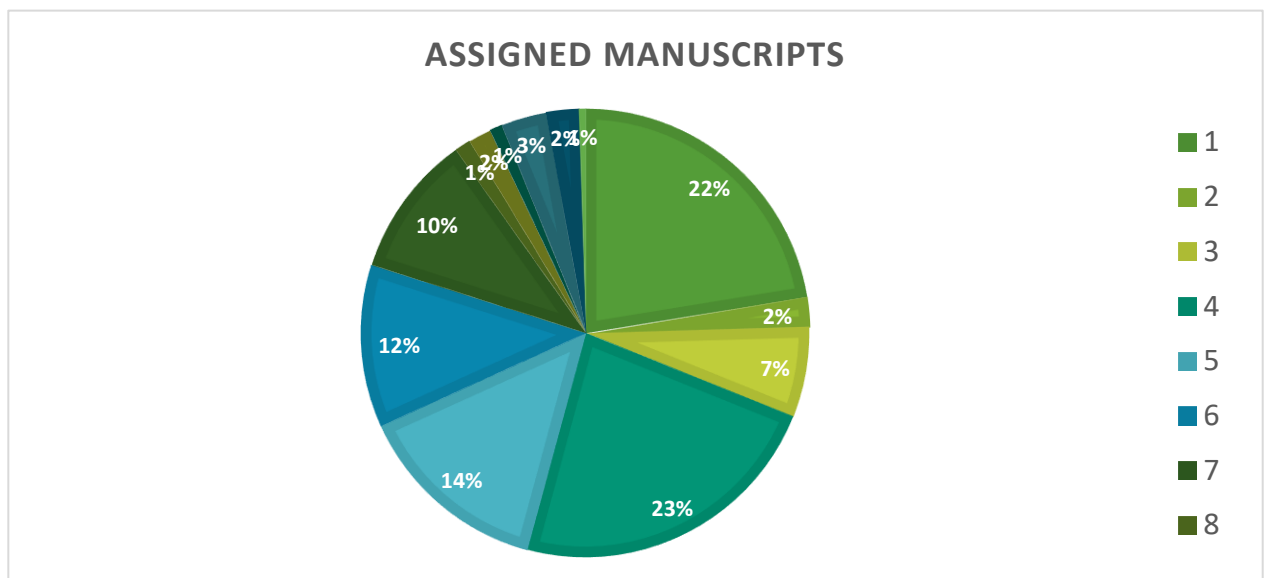


Figure 19. Assigned manuscripts to 13 different Associate Editors.

Associate Editors are indicated by numbers to keep anonymity.

5. Turnover

The time between publication phases is following analysed according to the main steps:

- Date of submission
- Assignment of Associate Editors
- Start of review process
- First editor decision
- Final editor decision
- Copyediting
- Proofreading
- Publishing

The following figures present a mean period needed for each step, considering every year from 2011 to 2019.

5.1. Declined Submissions

Figure 20 presents the mean period (months) needed from the first step, the submission of manuscript, to the final decision for declining the manuscript.

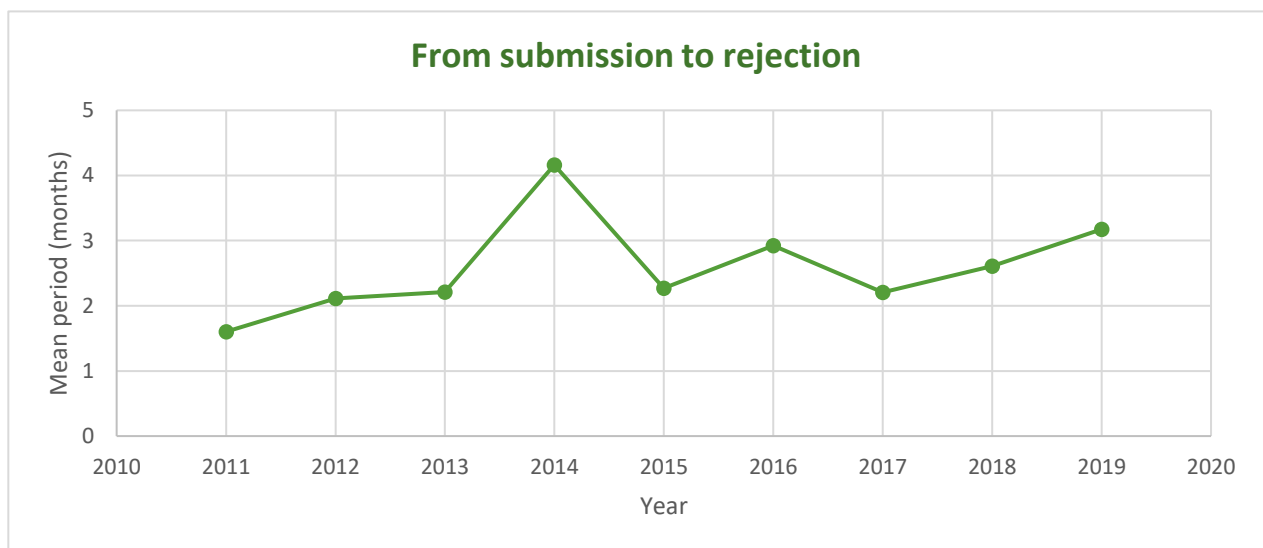


Figure 20. Mean period from manuscript’s submission to rejection.

Figure 21 shows the time needed to assign the manuscripts to Associate Editors (a), start the review process (b), take the first decision (c) and make the final decision (d).

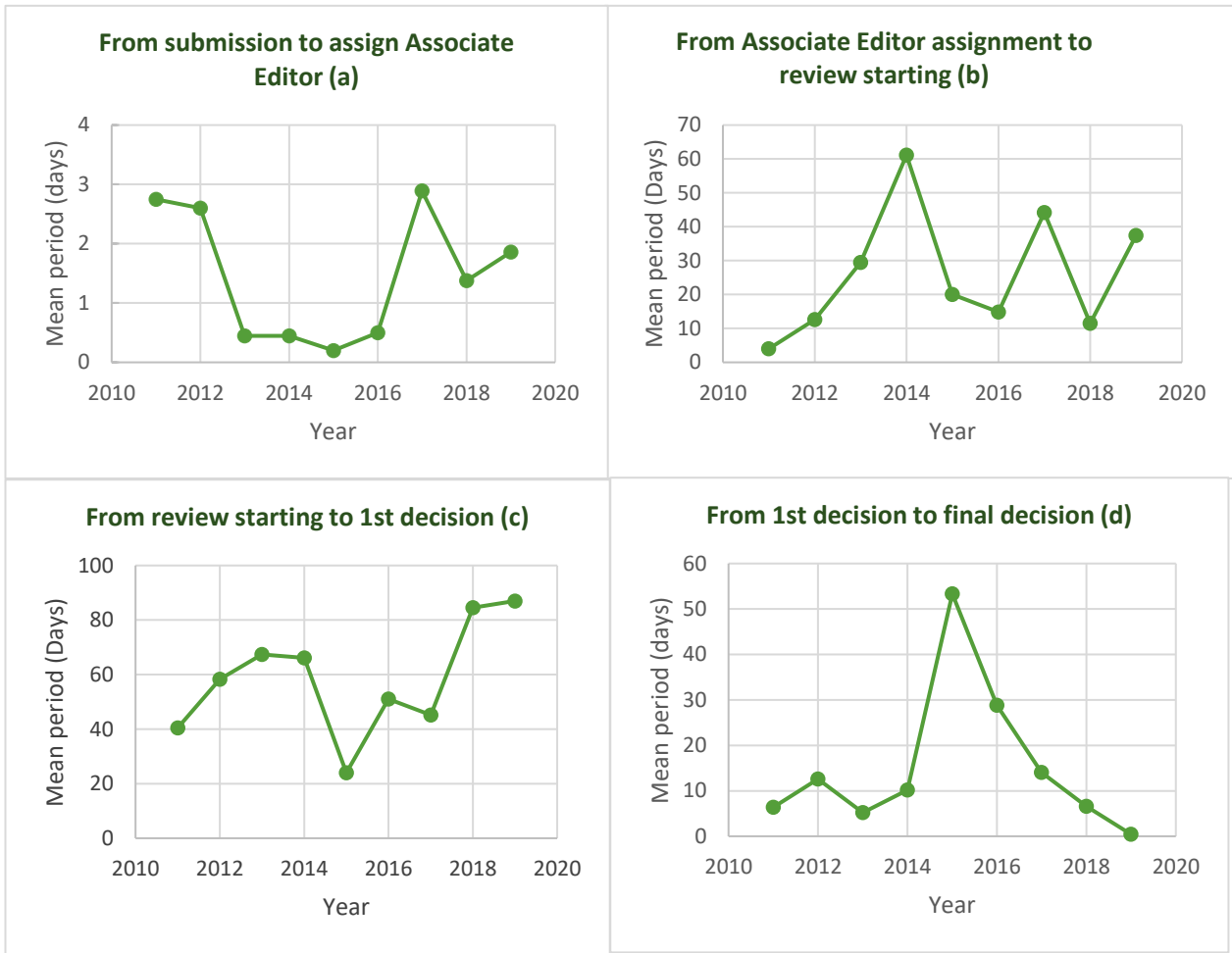


Figure 21. Mean period between the different steps from the submission to the editors’ final decision (declined submissions).

5.2. Accepted Submissions

Figure 22 presents the mean period needed from submission to the final decision (a) and publishing (b).

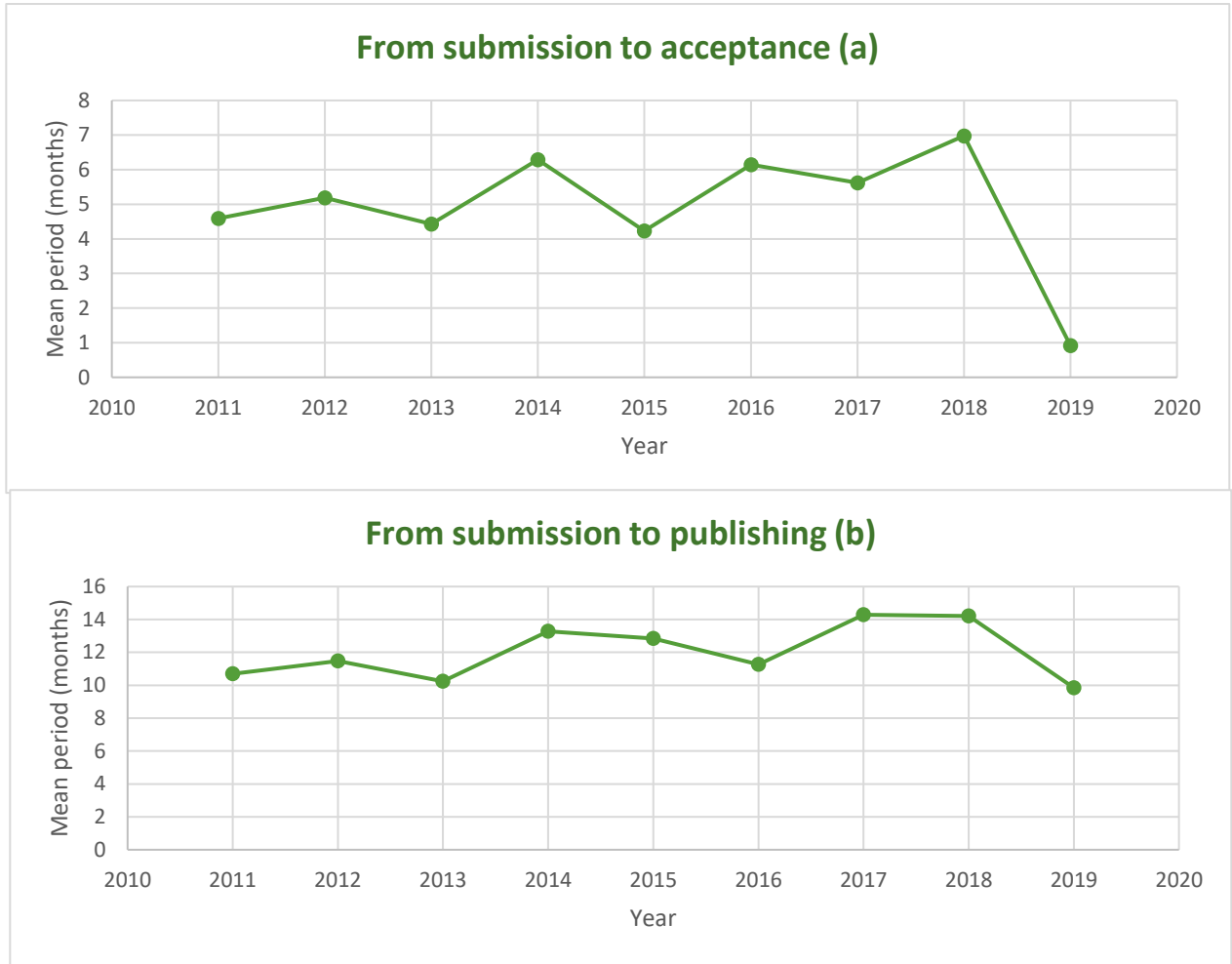


Figure 22. Mean period between the date of submission and the date of the editors’ final decision (a) and publishing (b).

Figure 23 shows the time needed to assign the manuscripts to Associate Editors (a), start the review (b), take the first decision (c) and make the final decision (d).

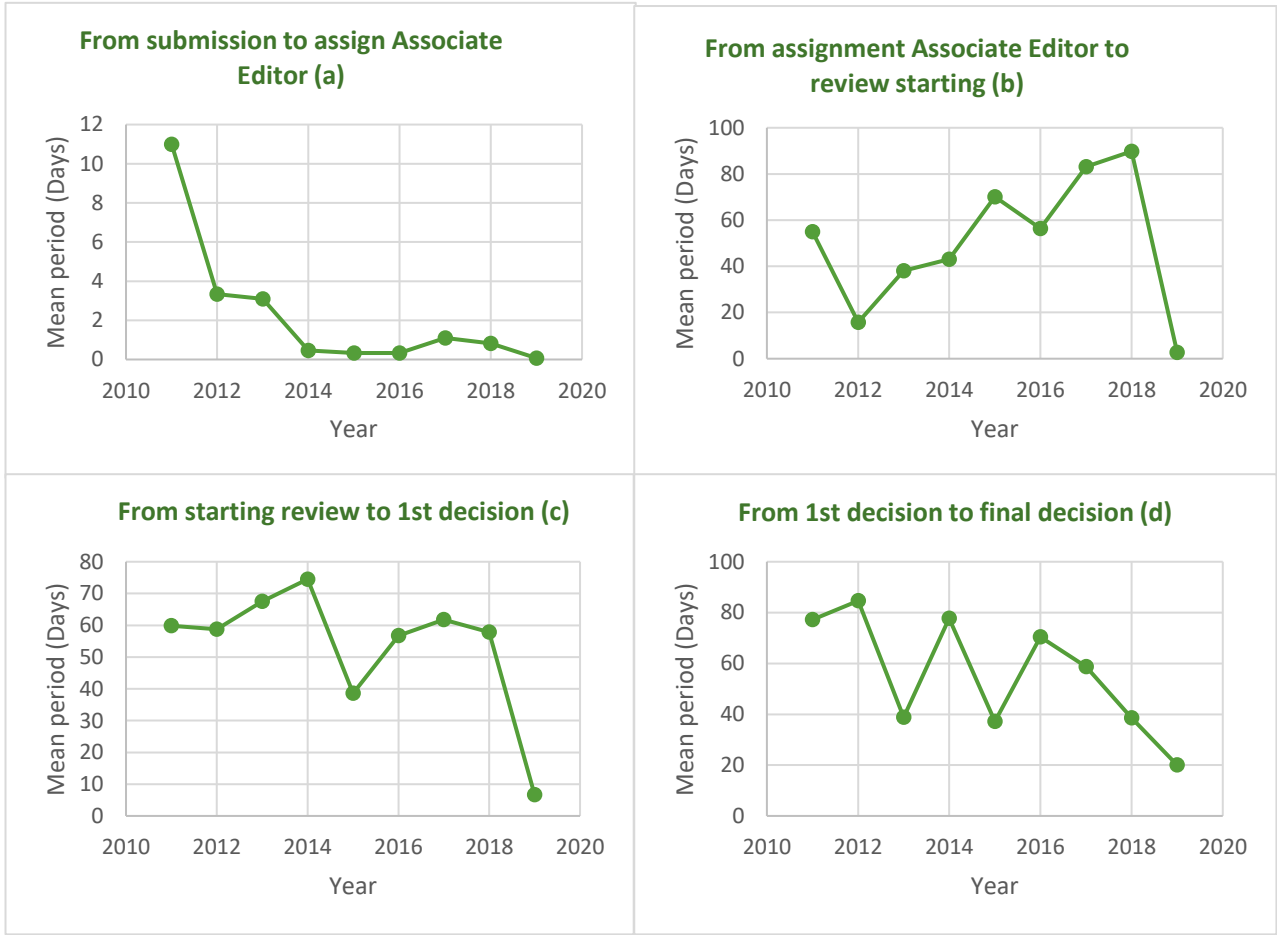


Figure 23. Mean period between the different steps from the submission to the editors’ final decision (accepted submissions).

After the final decision, Figure 24 shows that accepted manuscripts proceed with other steps: copyediting phase (a), the pdf of the available article (b).

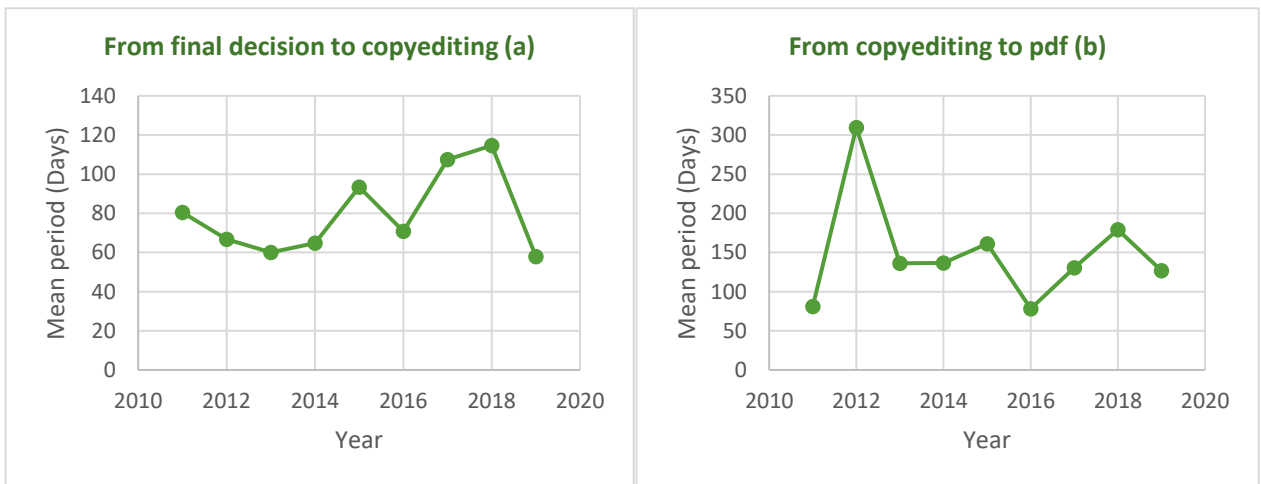


Figure 24. Mean period from final decision to copyediting (a) and from copyediting to pdf (b).

6. Perspectives for 2020

Some data about 2020, from January to June can give the possibility to have a brief overview of the IJFS activities in the current year. To have a clearer idea of the journal trend, the collected data from 2020 will be compared with collected data from 2019.

6.1. Total Number of Submitted Manuscripts

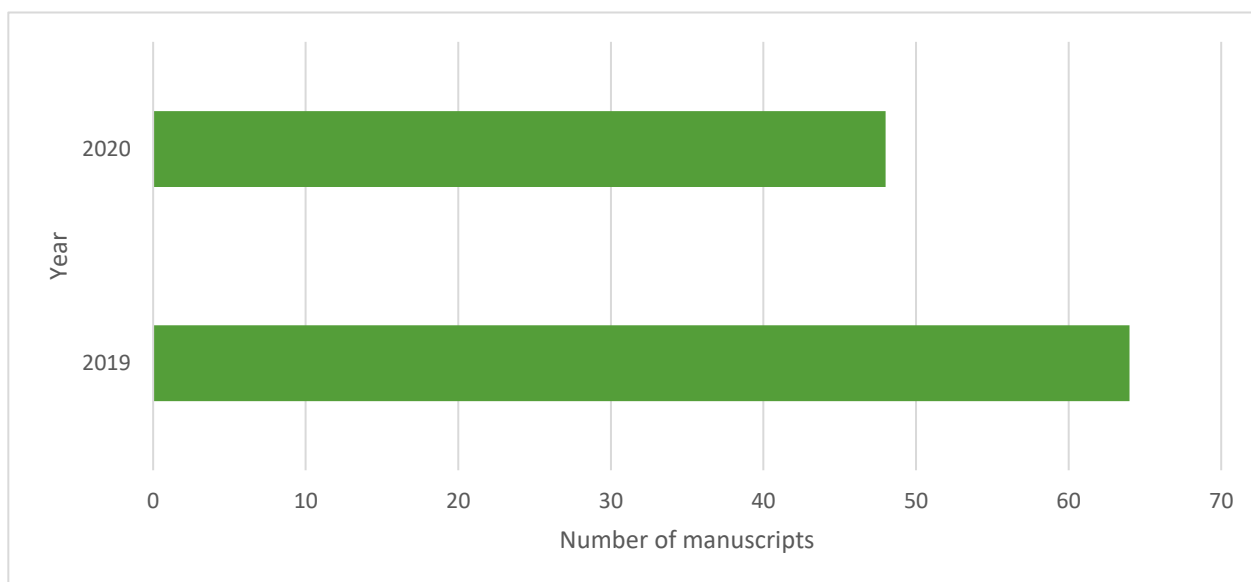


Figure 25. Total number of manuscripts till June 2020, compared with collected data from 2019.

6.2. Geographical Distribution of Submitted Manuscripts

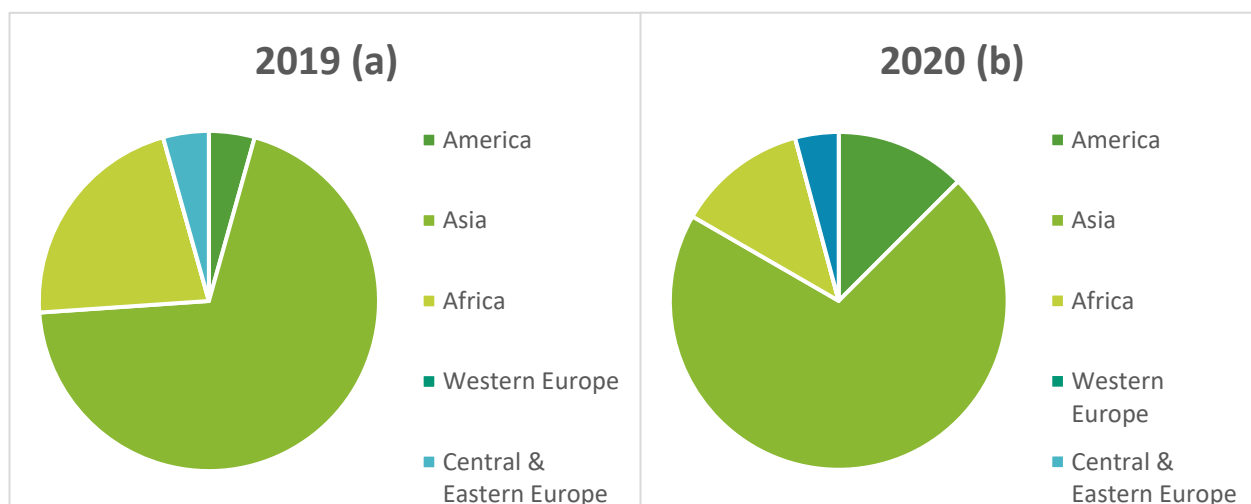


Figure 26. Comparison of the geographical distribution of the submitted manuscripts between 2019 (a) and 2020 (b), from January to June.

6.3. Type of Submitted Manuscripts

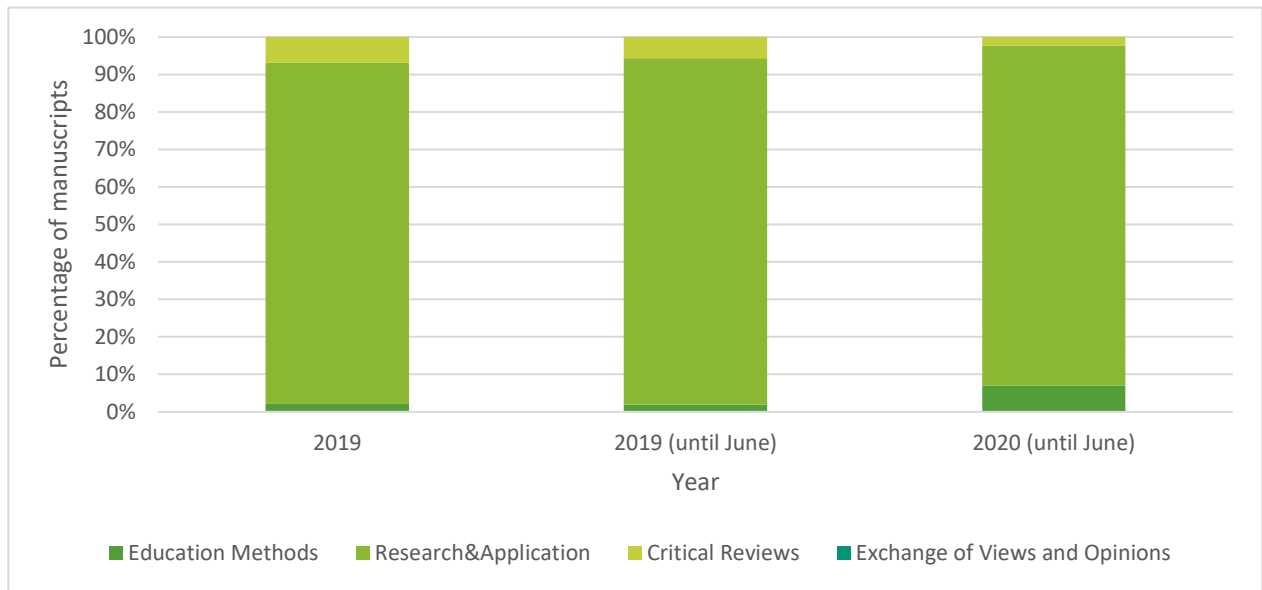


Figure 27. Comparison between the type of manuscripts submitted in 2019, 2019 (from Jan to June) and 2020 (until June).

